IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of: Robert A. Luciano, Jr. et al. Examiner: Flores Sanchez, Omar Application No.: 09/419.748 Group Art Unit: 3724 Filing Date: October 16, 1999 Confirmation No. 1734 Docket No. 10407-1031 Title: PRINTER TEAR BAR AND PRESENTER Customer No. 30076

SYSTEM

Commissioner for Patents P. O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

PETITION TO WITHDRAW HOLDING OF ABANDONMENT PURSUANT TO 37 CFR §1.181

Applicants hereby petition for the withdrawal of the Examiner's holding of abandonment for failure to respond to an Office Action mailed on February 13, 2002.

From review of the record, on February 13, 2002, the Examiner mailed an office action to the Applicants' representative, Ian Burns and Associates. On August 13, 2002, the Applicants' representative submitted a response to the office action via facsimile with a three-month extension of time. The facsimile was successfully transmitted on August 13, 2002. A copy of the facsimile transmission report showing that a 14-page facsimile was sent to (703) 746-3290 is included with this petition and is marked as **EXHIBIT 1**. Additionally, a copy of the 14-page facsimile is included as **EXHIBIT 2**. However, Examiner Flores-Sanchez apparently did not receive the response to the office action.

On August 11, 2004, Applicants' representative re-sent the response to the office action to Mr. Steve Marcus pursuant to instructions from Examiner Flores-Sanchez. A copy of the transmission report showing that the second facsimile was successfully sent to Mr. Marcus of U.S. Patent and Trademark Office is attached as **EXHIBIT 3**. The facsimile transmission to Mr. Marcus is included in this petition as **EXHIBIT 4**.

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The prosecution of this application was transferred to the firm of Brown, Raysman, Millstein, Felder, and Steiner LLP. A revocation of Power of Attorney with a new Power of Attorney was sent to the U.S. Patent Office on October 21, 2005. On Sunday, May 14, 2006, Examiner Flores-Sanchez left a telephonic message for the undersigned at 2:22 p.m. PST checking the status of the case. In the Examiner's message, Examiner Flores-Sanchez stated that no official response has been received to date. Applicants' representative left a telephonic message for the Examiner on May 15, 2006. On May 18, 2006, a notice of abandonment was sent to the Applicants' representative. After reviewing the file history, the Applicants' representative is submitting this petition requesting the holding of abandonment be withdrawn. Based upon the facts available to the Applicants' representative, and pursuant to 37 CFR 1.8(b)(3), Applicants' representative respectfully submits that a timely response to the Office Action of February 13, 2002 was transmitted to the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office on August 13, 2002. Furthermore, a subsequent re-transmission of the response of August 13, 2002 was sent via facsimile to the U.S. Patent Office on August 11, 2004.

Accordingly, Applicants' representative respectfully submits that the response was timely filed and was not entered due to Patent Office error. Thus, the Applicants' representative respectfully requests the withdrawal of the holding of abandonment pursuant to 37 CFR 1.181. Furthermore, Applicants' representative submit that this petition is timely filed pursuant to 37 CFR 1.181(f) since this petition is filed within two months of the mail date, May 18, 2006, of the notice of abandonment.

No fee is believed to be due with this paper. However, if Applicants are mistaken, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional required fees from Deposit Account No. 502811, Deposit Account Name BROWN RAYSMAN MILLSTEIN FELDER & STEINER LLP.

Should the Petitions Examiner have any questions concerning the foregoing, the Petitions Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned attorney at (310) 712-8300. The undersigned

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BRMFSLA 63185v1

Appl. No. 09/419,748 Docket No. 10407-1031 Amdt. dated June 5, 2006

attorney can normally be reached Monday through Friday from about 10:00 AM to 6:00 PM Pacific Time

Respectfully submitted,

(310) 712-8383 facsimile

Date: June 5, 2006

Andrew B. Chen Reg. No. 48,508

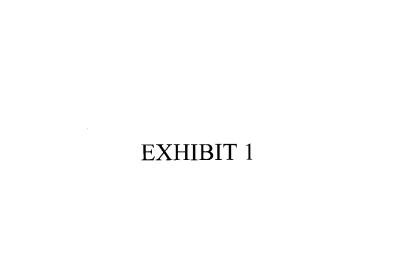
BROWN RAYSMAN MILLSTEIN FELDER & STEINER LLP

1880 Century Park East, 12th Floor Los Angeles, CA 90067-1621 (310) 712-8300 telephone

Attachments: Exhibit 1 (1 sheet)

Reply to Office action of

Exhibit 2 (14 sheets) Exhibit 3 (1 sheet) Exhibit 4 (16 sheets)



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IAN F. BURNS & ASSOCIATES, P.C.

Intellectual Property Law

Ian F. Burns*†
Robert C. Ryan*‡
Rolando J. Tong**

P.O. Box 20038 560 East Plumb Lane Reno, NV 89515-0038 Phone: (775) 826-6160 Fax: (775) 825-6072 E-mail: iburns@nevadapatentlaw.com

*Admitted in U.S. Patent and Trademark Office *Admitted in California, Hawaii & Nevada *Admitted in Illinois and Nevada *Admitted in California

August 12, 2002

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TO: Omar Flores-Sanchez

FAX #: (703) 746-3290

COMPANY: Patent and Trademark Office

FROM: Rolando J. Tong

RE: Serial Number: 09/419,478 Filing Date: October 16, 1999

OUR REFERENCE: 732.341 SDG.UA-Printer Tear Bar System

Number of pages including this cover page: 4

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Dear Sir:

The following is/are submitted to the Patent and Trademark Office for appropriate action:

- An Amendment E (7 pages).
- A Version With Markings Showing Changes Made (3 pages).
- 3. A Petition for Extension of Time (1 page).
- 4. A Fee Transmittal (1 page).
- A Transmittal Letter (1 page).

Cordially yours,

Rolando J. Tong

Registration Number: 47,140

IAN F. burns & Associates, F.C.

Intellectual Property Law

Ian F. Burns*† Robert C. Ryan*; Rolando J. Tong** 1575 Delucchi Lane Suite 222 Reno, Nevada 89502 Phone: (775) 826-6160 Fax: (775) 828-1651 E-mail: iburns@nevadapatentlaw.com

*Admitted in U.S. Patent and Trademark Office

†Admitted in California, Hawaii & Nevada

‡Admitted in Illinois and Nevada

*Admitted in California

August 12, 2002

Box Amendment FEE Assistant Commissioner for Patents Washington, DC 20231

In re application of: Robert A. Luciano and Raymond Bryan Serial number:09/419,748 Filed: October 16, 1999 Title: PRINTER TEAR BAR AND PRESENTER SYSTEM Attorney docket number:732.341 SDG.UA-Printer Tear Bar System

Dear Sir:

The following is/are submitted to the Patent and Trademark Office for appropriate action:

- An Amendment E (7 pages).
- A Version with Markings Showing Changes Made (3 pages).
- A Petition for Three Months Extension of Time (1 page).
- 4. A Fee Transmittal (1 page).
- 5. A Facsimile Cover letter (1 page).

Cordially yours,

Rolando J. Tong

Registration Number: 47,140

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING/TRANSMISSION (37 C.F.R. 1.8(a))

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I hereby certify that, on the date shown below, this correspondence is being:

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Washington, D.C. 20231.

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Transmitted by facsimile to the Patent and Trademark Office.

No.: 703 -746-3290

Signature () Simboles Reich 8-13-02 In re application of: Robert A. Luciano and Raymond Bryan

Serial number: 09/419,748

Page 1

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of: Robert A. Luciano and Raymond Bryan
Serial number: 09/419 748

Serial number: 09/419,748 Filed: October 16, 1999

Title: PRINTER TEAR BAR AND PRESENTER SYSTEM

Attorney docket number: 732.341 SDG.UA-Printer Tear Bar System

10 Group Number: 3724

Examiner: Flores-Sanchez, Omar

Assistant Commissioner for Patents Washington, D.C. 20231

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AMENDMENT E

In response to the office action mailed on February 13, 2002, Applicants submit this Amendment E.

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In the claims

Please amend claims 1, 20, and 25 as follows:

- A tear bar for assisting the separation of a piece of media from a strip of media, the strip of
 media having a surface, a first and second side, and a center portion, the tear bar comprising:
- 25 (A) a first side portion, the first side portion being adapted to abut the surface of the strip of media adjacent to the first side of the strip of media and apply resistance on the strip of media when a longitudinal force is applied to the strip of media; and

(B) a second side portion, the second side portion being adapted to abut the surface of the strip of media adjacent to the second side of the strip of media and apply resistance on the strip of media when a longitudinal force is applied to the strip of media:

wherein the tear bar is formed from an integrally formed member having a substantially semi-circular lateral cross-section, the integrally formed member further having a center portion between the first side portion and the second side portion, the center portion having a diameter less than the first side portion and the second side portion, and wherein at least one of the first or second side portions comprises a roughened surface.

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20. A tear bar for assisting the separation of a piece of media from a strip of media, the strip of media having a surface, a first and second side, and a center portion, the tear bar comprising:

- (A) a first side portion, the first side portion being adapted to abut the surface of the strip of media adjacent to the first side of the strip of media and apply resistance on the strip of media when a longitudinal force is applied to the strip of media;
- (B) a second side portion, the second side portion being adapted to abut the surface of the strip of media adjacent to the second side of the strip of media and apply resistance on the strip of media when a longitudinal force is applied to the strip of media; and
- 20 (C) a center portion between the first side portion and the second portion, the center portion having a diameter less than the first side portion and the second side portion,

In re application of: Robert A. Luciano and Raymond Bryan

Serial number: 09/419,748

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wherein the tear bar remains in a fixed position during feeding and separation of the strip
of media, wherein at least one of the first or second side portions comprises a roughened
surface.

- 25. A tear bar for assisting the separation of a piece of media from a strip of media, the strip of media having a surface, a first and second side, and a center portion, the tear bar comprising:
 - (A) a first side portion, the first side portion being adapted to abut the surface of the strip of media adjacent to the first side of the strip of media and apply resistance on the strip of media when a longitudinal force is applied to the strip of media;
 - (B) a second side portion, the second side portion being adapted to abut the surface of the strip of media adjacent to the second side of the strip of media and apply resistance on the strip of media when a longitudinal force is applied to the strip of media; and
 - (C) a center portion between the first and second side portions, the center portion having a diameter less than the diameter of the first side portion and the diameter of the second side portion, the center portion being adapted to abut the surface of the strip of media when a longitudinal force is applied to the strip of media.

REMARKS

Office Action

Claims 1, 5-7, and 19-29 are pending in the application. Claims 1, 5-7, and 19-29 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Michalovic. Claims 2-3 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Michalovic in view of Ishii et al. et al.

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Serial number: 09/419,748

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Interview

Applicants sincerely appreciate the courtesies extended by Examiner Omar Flores-

Sanchez during a telephone interview conducted on July 12, 2002. During the interview,

Examiner Sanchez indicated that he has reviewed, with his Primary, Applicants' proposed

amendment sent by facsimile on July 1, 2002 and that the claim amendments appear to advance

the application for allowance.

Amendment

By this Amendment E, independent claims 1, 20, and 25 have been amended to include a

tear bar comprising a center portion having a diameter less than the first and second side portion.

Applicants submit that claims 1, 20, and 25 are not anticipated by Michalovic.

As stated by the Federal Circuit: Anticipation requires the presence in a single prior art

reference disclosure of each and every element of the claimed invention, arranged as in the

claim. Lindermann Maschinenfabrik GMBH v. American Hoist and Derrick Co., 221 USPQ 481,

485 (Fed. Cir. 1984).

Applicants submit that Michalovic does not disclose a center portion having a diameter

less than the first and second side portion. Thus, Michalovic does not disclose each and every

element of the claimed invention. Withdrawal of 35 U.S.C. §102(b) rejection over independent

claims 1, 20, and 25 and their respective dependent claims- 5-7, 19, 21-24, and 26-29 is

respectfully requested.

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With regard to claims 2 and 3, the applicants respectfully submit that claims 2 and 3 are patentable over Michalovic in view of Ishii et al. for the following reasons.

The cited references, even when improperly combined, do not teach or suggest all the claim

5 limitations.

MPEP §2143 states that the prior art reference or references when combined must also teach or suggest all the claim limitations. See also *In re Royka*, 490 F.2d 981. Notwithstanding the Applicants' arguments against improper combination of references, Applicants submit that even if the cited references were combined, the cited references do not teach or suggest all the claim limitations.

As already discussed under the applicants' arguments relating to 35 U.S.C. §102 rejection, Michalovic does not disclose, teach, or suggest a center portion having a diameter less than the first and second side portion. See also Figure 2 of Michalovic. With regard to Ishii et al., the reference discloses a cutting roller having an axle and a surface having three edges surrounding the length of the axle. Two edges are positioned on the sides and have a smaller diameter than an edge positioned in the center.

In sum, the Office has not presented a combination of references that disclose each and every element of claims 2 and 3, as required by a large body of law. Withdrawal of the 35 USC 103(a) rejections on claims 2 and 3 is respectfully requested.

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The combination of Michalovic and Ishii et al. is improper.

To establish a prima facie case of obviousness, there must be some suggestion or motivation, either in the references themselves or in the knowledge generally available to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify the reference or to combine reference teachings. MPEP §2143, See also In re Rouffet, 149 F.3d 1350, 1357. The applicant submits that the Office has not established a prima facie case of obviousness because there is no suggestion or motivation to combine Michalovic and Ishii et al. as discussed below.

Michalovic teaches using a tear surface having a uniform diameter, whereas Ishii et al. teaches using a tear surface having varying diameters.

Michalovic is an apparatus for dispensing linerless labels with adhesives. As such, Michalovic states that sticking of labels to dispensing apparatus components is a significant problem. See column 1, lines 28-34. If the dispensing apparatus has a tear surface of varying diameter, the labels have more tendency to stick to the uneven tear surface than a dispensing apparatus with uniform tear surface, making it difficult and expensive to dispense labels.

Additionally, Michalovic states "where blades or like components are used as a force concentrating structure to facilitate tearing of labels along the perforation lines, the concentrating structures must be cleaned often to prevent build up of adhesive." Column 1, lines 33-37.

In contrast, Ishii et al. provides an apparatus for issuing a ticket with a cutting roller that creates diamond-shaped openings in the center of the perforations on media. The diamond-shaped openings are specifically created by a plurality of edges having variable diameters on the axle of the roller. The diamond-shaped openings allow tickets to be cut clearly without leaving

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any scraps, which may cause apparatus jam and may cause a customer to question the authenticity of a ticket. The objects of Ishii et al.'s invention are to prevent apparatus from jamming and to provide a high quality ticket cut with precision from a ticket sheet. See column 2, lines 4-9.

In sum, there is no suggestion or motivation, either in Ishii et al. or in Michalovic or in the knowledge generally available to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify or to combine reference teachings of Ishii et al. and Michalovic. Withdrawal of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) rejections based on the combination of Ishii et al. and Michalovic is respectfully requested.

The amendments to the claims above have not been made to overcome the rejections. The applicant believes that the original claims are patentable over the cited reference. The applicant makes amendments to obtain allowance of the application, considering the length of time the prosecution of this application has already taken.

CONCLUSION

For all of the above reasons, the applicant submits that the present application is in condition for allowance. If the examiner has any questions regarding the application or this response, the examiner is encouraged to call the applicant's attorney, Rolando J. Tong, at (775) 826-6160.

> Respectfully submitted, KTony

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Rolando J. Tong, Attorney for Applicant(s)

Registration Number: 47.140

VERSION WITH MARKINGS SHOWING CHANGES MADE

1. (Thrice Amended) A tear bar for assisting the separation of a piece of media from a strip of

media, the strip of media having a surface, a first and second side, and a center portion, the tear

bar comprising:

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(A) a first side portion, the first side portion being adapted to abut the surface of the

strip of media adjacent to the first side of the strip of media and apply resistance

on the strip of media when a longitudinal force is applied to the strip of media;

and

(B) a second side portion, the second side portion being adapted to abut the surface of

the strip of media adjacent to the second side of the strip of media and apply

resistance on the strip of media when a longitudinal force is applied to the strip of

media;

wherein the tear bar is formed from an integrally formed member having a substantially

semi-circular lateral cross-section, the integrally formed member further having a center

portion between the first side portion and the second side portion, the center portion

having a diameter less than the first side portion and the second side portion, and wherein

at least one of the first or second side portions comprises a roughened surface.

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING/TRANSMISSION (37 C.F.R. 1.8(a))

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In re application of: Robert A. Luciano and Raymond Bryan

Serial number: 09/419,748

Page 2

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20. (Twice Amended) A tear bar for assisting the separation of a piece of media from a strip of

media, the strip of media having a surface, a first and second side, and a center portion, the tear

bar comprising:

(A) a first side portion, the first side portion being adapted to abut the surface of the

strip of media adjacent to the first side of the strip of media and apply resistance

on the strip of media when a longitudinal force is applied to the strip of media;

[and]

(B) a second side portion, the second side portion being adapted to abut the surface of

the strip of media adjacent to the second side of the strip of media and apply

resistance on the strip of media when a longitudinal force is applied to the strip of

media; and

(C) a center portion between the first side portion and the second portion, the center

portion having a diameter less than the first side portion and the second side

portion,

wherein the tear bar remains in a fixed position during feeding and separation of the strip

of media, wherein at least one of the first or second side portions comprises a roughened

surface.

25. (Once amended) A tear bar for assisting the separation of a piece of media from a strip of

media, the strip of media having a surface, a first and second side, and a center portion, the tear

bar comprising:

(A) a first side portion, the first side portion being adapted to abut the surface of the

strip of media adjacent to the first side of the strip of media and apply resistance

on the strip of media when a longitudinal force is applied to the strip of media;

In re application of: Roben A. Luciano and Raymond Bryan

Serial number: 09/419,748

Page 3

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(B) a second side portion, the second side portion being adapted to abut the surface of the strip of media adjacent to the second side of the strip of media and apply resistance on the strip of media when a longitudinal force is applied to the strip of media; and

(C) a center portion between the first and second side portions, the center portion having a diameter less than the diameter of the first side portion and the diameter of the second side portion, the center portion being adapted to abut the surface of the strip of media when a longitudinal force is applied to the strip of media.

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for FY 2000	Filing Date	Öctober 16, 1999					
Patent fees ere subject to annual revision.	First Named Inventor	Robert A. Luciano					
Small Entity payments must be supported by a small entity statement, otherwise large entity fees must be paid. See Forms PTO/SB/09-12.	Examiner Name	Flores-Sanches					
See 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.27 and 1.28.	Group / Art Unit	3724					
TOTAL AMOUNT OF PAYMENT (\$) 460.00	Attorney Docket No.	732.341 SDG					

METHOD OF PAYMENT (check one)	FEE CALCULATION (continued)				
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Fee Fee Fee Fee Fee Description	118 1,360 218 680 Extension for reply within fourth month	0.00			
Code (\$) Code (\$) Fee Paid 101 690 201 345 Utility filing fee	128 1,850 228 925 Extension for reply within fifth month	0.00			
106 310 208 155 Design filing fee	119 300 219 150 Notice of Appeal	0.00			
107 480 207 240 Plant filing fee	120 300 220 150 Filing a brief in support of an appeal	0.00			
108 690 208 345 Reissue filing fee	121 280 221 130 Request for oral hearing	0.00			
114 150 214 75 Provisional filing fee	138 1,510 138 1,510 Petition to institute a public use proceeding	0.00			
	140 110 240 55 Petition to revive - unavoidable				
SUBTOTAL (1) (\$)	141 1,210 241 805 Petition to revive - unintentional	0.00			
2. EXTRA CLAIM FEES	142 1,210 242 605 Utility issue fee (or reissue)				
Extra Claims below Fee Paid	143 430 243 215 Design issue fee 144 580 244 290 Plant issue fee				
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Large Entity Small Entity	128 240 128 240 Submission of Information Disclosure Stmt	0.00			
Fee Fee Fee Fee Fee Description Code (\$) Code (\$)	property (times number of properties)	0.00			
103 18 203 9 Claims in excess of 20	148 890 248 345 Filing a submission after final rejection (37 CFR § 1.129(a))	0.00			
102 78 202 39 Independent claims in excess of 3 104 280 204 130 Multiple dependent claim, if not paid	149 690 249 345 For each additional invention to be examined (37 CFR § 1.129(b))	0.00			
109 78 209 39 ** Reissue independent claims over original patent	Other fee (specify)	0.00			
110 18 210 9 ** Reissue claims in excess of 20 and over original patent	Other fee (specify)				
SUBTOTAL (2) (\$) 0.00	Reduced by Basic Filing Fee Paid SUBTOTAL (3)	60.00			

SUBMITTED BY				Complete (i	f applica	ble)
Name (Print/Type)	Rolando J. Tong	Registration No. (Attorney/Agent)	47,140	Telephone	775	-826-6160
Signature	More			Date	81	13/02
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PETITION FOR EXTENSION OF	Docket Number (Optional) 732.400 SDG					
	and Raymond Bryan					
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	Group Art Unit 3724	Examiner Flor	res-Sanches			
This is a request under the provaresponse in the above identifi		R 1.136(a) to extend	the period for filing			
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Three months (37 CFI	R 1.17(a)(3))		\$ 920			
Fourmonths (37 CFR	1.17(a)(4))		\$			
Five months (37 CFR	1.17 (a)(5))		\$			
Applicant is a small entity under 37 CFR 1.9 and 1.27, therefore the fee amount shown above is reduced by one-half, and the resuming fee is: \$ \frac{460}{2} A small entity statement under 37 CFR 1.27:						
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The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees which may be required, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account Number 500913 have endosed a duplicate copy of this sheet.						
am the assignee of reco	rd of the entire in	nterest.				
applicant.						
$\underline{\underline{X}}$ attorney or agent of record.						
attorney or agent under 37 CFR 1.34(a). Registration number if acting under 37 CFR 1.34(a)						
2/11		Range				
Date /		Rolan	do J. Tong			
	_		or printed name			

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EXHIBIT 3

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EXHIBIT 4

IAN F. BURNS & ASSOCIATES, P.C.

Intellectual Property Law

Ian F. Burns*†
John D. Long*†
Thomas J. Howell, Ph.D.*
Harry A. Pacini*

1575 Delucchi Lane Suite 222 Reno, Nevada 89502 Phone: (775) 826-6160 Fax: (775) 828-1651

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August 10, 2004

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TO: Steve Marcus

FAX #: (703) 305-3762

COMPANY: United States Patent and Trademark Office

FROM: Ian F. Burns

RE: Amendment E

OUR REFERENCE: 732.341 SDG-UA-Printer Tear Bar System

Number of pages including this cover page: 16

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Dear Sir:

As instructed by Examiner Flores-Sanchez, the following is a copy of the original response submitted by facsimile on August 13, 2002. Also attached is a copy of the transmission report showing the fax was successfully transmitted to 703-746-3290.

The Following is/are submitted to the Patent and Trademark Office for appropriate action:

- 1. A copy of the Facsimile Cover Sheet (1 page).
- 2. A copy of the Version With Markings Showing Changes Made (3 pages).
- 3. A copy of the Petition for Extension of Time (1 page).
- A copy of the Fee Transmittal (1 page).
- A copy of the Transmittal Letter (1 page).
- A copy of the Facsimile Confirmation sheet (1 page)

Cordially yours,

Ian F. Burn

Registration Number: 33,297

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IAN F. BURNS & ASSOCIATES, P.C.

Intellectual Property Law

Ian F. Burns*†
Robert C. Ryan*;
Rolando J. Tong**

P.O. Box 20038 560 East Plumb Lane Reno, NV 89515-0038 Phone: (775) 826-6160 Fax: (775) 825-6072 E-mail: iburns@nevadapatentlaw.com

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August 12, 2002

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TO: Omar Flores-Sanchez

FAX #: (703) 746-3290

COMPANY: Patent and Trademark Office

FROM: Rolando J. Tong

RE: Serial Number: 09/419,478 Filing Date: October 16, 1999

OUR REFERENCE: 732,341 SDG.UA-Printer Tear Bar System

Number of pages including this cover page:

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Dear Sir:

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- An Amendment E (7 pages).
- A Version With Markings Showing Changes Made (3 pages).
- A Petition for Extension of Time (1 page).
- A Fee Transmittal (1 page).
- 5. A Transmittal Letter (1 page).

Cordially yours,

Registration Number: 47,140

IAN I burns & Associate. F.C.

Intellectual Property Law

Ian F. Burns*†
Robert C. Ryan**
Rolando J. Tong**

1575 Delucchi Lane Suite 222 Reno, Nevada 89502 Phone: (775) 826-6160 Fax: (775) 828-1651 E-mail: jburns@nevadapatentlaw.com

Admitted in U.S. Patent and Trademark Office 'Admitted in California, Hawaii & Nevada [‡]Admitted in Illinois and Nevada 'Admitted in California

August 12, 2002

Box Amendment FEE Assistant Commissioner for Patents Washington, DC 20231

In re application of: Robert A. Luciano and Raymond Bryan Serial number:09/419,748 Filed: October 16, 1999 Title: PRINTER TEAR BAR AND PRESENTER SYSTEM Attorney docket number:732.341 SDG.UA-Printer Tear Bar System

Dear Sir:

The following is/are submitted to the Patent and Trademark Office for appropriate action:

- An Amendment E (7 pages).
- A Version with Markings Showing Changes Made (3 pages).
- A Petition for Three Months Extension of Time (1 page).
- 4. A Fee Transmittal (1 page).
- A Facsimile Cover letter (1 page).

Cordially yours,

Rolando J. Tong

Registration Number: 47,140

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Signature

<u>S</u>-13-04 Date In re application of: Robert A. Luciano and Raymond Bryan

Serial number: 09/419,748

Page 1

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of: Robert A. Luciano and Raymond Bryan Serial number: 09/419.748

Filed: October 16, 1999

Filed: October 16, 1999

Title: PRINTER TEAR BAR AND PRESENTER SYSTEM

Attorney docket number: 732.341 SDG.UA-Printer Tear Bar System

10 Group Number: 3724

Examiner: Flores-Sanchez, Omar

Assistant Commissioner for Patents Washington, D.C. 20231

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AMENDMENT E

In response to the office action mailed on February 13, 2002, Applicants submit this Amendment E.

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In the claims

Please amend claims 1, 20, and 25 as follows:

- A tear bar for assisting the separation of a piece of media from a strip of media, the strip of
 media having a surface, a first and second side, and a center portion, the tear bar comprising:
- 25 (A) a first side portion, the first side portion being adapted to abut the surface of the strip of media adjacent to the first side of the strip of media and apply resistance on the strip of media when a longitudinal force is applied to the strip of media; and

(B) a second side portion, the second side portion being adapted to abut the surface of the strip of media adjacent to the second side of the strip of media and apply resistance on the strip of media when a longitudinal force is applied to the strip of media:

wherein the tear bar is formed from an integrally formed member having a substantially semi-circular lateral cross-section, the integrally formed member further having a center portion between the first side portion and the second side portion, the center portion having a diameter less than the first side portion and the second side portion, and wherein at least one of the first or second side portions comprises a roughened surface.

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- 20. A tear bar for assisting the separation of a piece of media from a strip of media, the strip of media having a surface, a first and second side, and a center portion, the tear bar comprising:
 - (A) a first side portion, the first side portion being adapted to abut the surface of the strip of media adjacent to the first side of the strip of media and apply resistance on the strip of media when a longitudinal force is applied to the strip of media;
 - (B) a second side portion, the second side portion being adapted to abut the surface of the strip of media adjacent to the second side of the strip of media and apply resistance on the strip of media when a longitudinal force is applied to the strip of media; and
 - (C) a center portion between the first side portion and the second portion, the center portion having a diameter less than the first side portion and the second side portion,

In re application of: Robert A. Luciano and Raymond Bryan

Serial number: 09/419,748

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wherein the tear bar remains in a fixed position during feeding and separation of the strip
of media, wherein at least one of the first or second side portions comprises a roughened
surface.

- 25. A tear bar for assisting the separation of a piece of media from a strip of media, the strip of media having a surface, a first and second side, and a center portion, the tear bar comprising:
 - (A) a first side portion, the first side portion being adapted to abut the surface of the strip of media adjacent to the first side of the strip of media and apply resistance on the strip of media when a longitudinal force is applied to the strip of media;
 - (B) a second side portion, the second side portion being adapted to abut the surface of the strip of media adjacent to the second side of the strip of media and apply resistance on the strip of media when a longitudinal force is applied to the strip of media; and
 - (C) a center portion between the first and second side portions, the center portion having a diameter less than the diameter of the first side portion and the diameter of the second side portion, the center portion being adapted to abut the surface of the strip of media when a longitudinal force is applied to the strip of media.

REMARKS

Office Action

Claims 1, 5-7, and 19-29 are pending in the application. Claims 1, 5-7, and 19-29 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Michalovic. Claims 2-3 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Michalovic in view of Ishii et al. et al.

In re application of: Robert A. Luciano and Raymond Bryan Serial number: 09/419,748

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Interview

Applicants sincerely appreciate the courtesies extended by Examiner Omar Flores-Sanchez during a telephone interview conducted on July 12, 2002. During the interview, Examiner Sanchez indicated that he has reviewed, with his Primary, Applicants' proposed amendment sent by facsimile on July 1, 2002 and that the claim amendments appear to advance the application for allowance.

Amendment

By this Amendment E, independent claims 1, 20, and 25 have been amended to include a tear bar comprising a center portion having a diameter less than the first and second side portion.

Applicants submit that claims 1, 20, and 25 are not anticipated by Michalovic.

As stated by the Federal Circuit: Anticipation requires the presence in a single prior art reference disclosure of each and every element of the claimed invention, arranged as in the claim. Lindermann Maschinenfabrik GMBH v. American Hoist and Derrick Co., 221 USPQ 481, 485 (Fed. Cir. 1984).

Applicants submit that Michalovic does not disclose a center portion having a diameter less than the first and second side portion. Thus, Michalovic does not disclose each and every element of the claimed invention. Withdrawal of 35 U.S.C. §102(b) rejection over independent claims 1, 20, and 25 and their respective dependent claims-5-7, 19, 21-24, and 26-29 is respectfully requested.

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With regard to claims 2 and 3, the applicants respectfully submit that claims 2 and 3 are patentable over Michalovic in view of Ishii et al. for the following reasons.

The cited references, even when improperly combined, do not teach or suggest all the claim

5 limitations.

MPEP §2143 states that the prior art reference or references when combined must also teach or suggest all the claim limitations. See also *In re Royka*, 490 F.2d 981. Notwithstanding the Applicants' arguments against improper combination of references, Applicants submit that even if the cited references were combined, the cited references do not teach or suggest all the claim limitations.

As already discussed under the applicants' arguments relating to 35 U.S.C. §102 rejection, Michalovic does not disclose, teach, or suggest a center portion having a diameter less than the first and second side portion. See also Figure 2 of Michalovic. With regard to Ishii et al., the reference discloses a cutting roller having an axle and a surface having three edges surrounding the length of the axle. Two edges are positioned on the sides and have a smaller diameter than an edge positioned in the center.

In sum, the Office has not presented a combination of references that disclose each and every element of claims 2 and 3, as required by a large body of law. Withdrawal of the 35 USC 103(a) rejections on claims 2 and 3 is respectfully requested.

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In re application of: Robert A. Luciano and Raymond Bryan Serial number: 09/419,748

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The combination of Michalovic and Ishii et al. is improper.

To establish a prima facie case of obviousness, there must be some suggestion or motivation, either in the references themselves or in the knowledge generally available to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify the reference or to combine reference teachings. MPEP §2143, See also In re Rouffet, 149 F.3d 1350, 1357. The applicant submits that the Office has not established a prima facie case of obviousness because there is no suggestion or motivation to combine Michalovic and Ishii et al. as discussed below.

Michalovic teaches using a tear surface having a uniform diameter, whereas Ishii et al. teaches using a tear surface having varying diameters.

Michalovic is an apparatus for dispensing linerless labels with adhesives. As such, Michalovic states that sticking of labels to dispensing apparatus components is a significant problem. See column 1, lines 28-34. If the dispensing apparatus has a tear surface of varying diameter, the labels have more tendency to stick to the uneven tear surface than a dispensing apparatus with uniform tear surface, making it difficult and expensive to dispense labels.

Additionally, Michalovic states "where blades or like components are used as a force concentrating structure to facilitate tearing of labels along the perforation lines, the concentrating structures must be cleaned often to prevent build up of adhesive." Column 1, lines 33-37.

In contrast, Ishii et al. provides an apparatus for issuing a ticket with a cutting roller that creates diamond-shaped openings in the center of the perforations on media. The diamond-shaped openings are specifically created by a plurality of edges having variable diameters on the axle of the roller. The diamond-shaped openings allow tickets to be cut clearly without leaving

In re application of: Robert A. Luciano and Raymond Bryan

Serial number: 09/419,748

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amy scraps, which may cause apparatus jam and may cause a customer to question the authenticity of a ticket. The objects of Ishii et al.'s invention are to prevent apparatus from jamming and to provide a high quality ticket cut with precision from a ticket sheet. See column 2. lines 4-9

In sum, there is no suggestion or motivation, either in Ishii et al. or in Michalovic or in the knowledge generally available to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify or to combine reference teachings of Ishii et al. and Michalovic. Withdrawal of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) rejections based on the combination of Ishii et al. and Michalovic is respectfully requested.

The amendments to the claims above have not been made to overcome the rejections.

The applicant believes that the original claims are patentable over the cited reference. The applicant makes amendments to obtain allowance of the application, considering the length of time the prosecution of this application has already taken.

CONCLUSION

For all of the above reasons, the applicant submits that the present application is in condition for allowance. If the examiner has any questions regarding the application or this response, the examiner is encouraged to call the applicant's attorney, Rolando J. Tong, at (775) 826-6160.

Respectfully submitted,

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Rolando J. Tong, Attorney for Applicant(s) Registration Number: 47,140

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VERSION WITH MARKINGS SHOWING CHANGES MADE

1. (Thrice Amended) A tear bar for assisting the separation of a piece of media from a strip of

media, the strip of media having a surface, a first and second side, and a center portion, the tear

bar comprising:

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(A) a first side portion, the first side portion being adapted to abut the surface of the

strip of media adjacent to the first side of the strip of media and apply resistance

on the strip of media when a longitudinal force is applied to the strip of media;

and

(B) a second side portion, the second side portion being adapted to abut the surface of

the strip of media adjacent to the second side of the strip of media and apply

resistance on the strip of media when a longitudinal force is applied to the strip of

media:

wherein the tear bar is formed from an integrally formed member having a substantially

semi-circular lateral cross-section, the integrally formed member further having a center

portion between the first side portion and the second side portion, the center portion

having a diameter less than the first side portion and the second side portion, and wherein

at least one of the first or second side portions comprises a roughened surface.

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In re application of: Rober Luciano and Raymond Bryan

Serial number: 09/419,748

Page 2

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20. (Twice Amended) A tear bar for assisting the separation of a piece of media from a strip of media, the strip of media having a surface, a first and second side, and a center portion, the tear bar comprising:

- (A) a first side portion, the first side portion being adapted to abut the surface of the strip of media adjacent to the first side of the strip of media and apply resistance on the strip of media when a longitudinal force is applied to the strip of media; [and]
- (B) a second side portion, the second side portion being adapted to abut the surface of the strip of media adjacent to the second side of the strip of media and apply resistance on the strip of media when a longitudinal force is applied to the strip of media; and
- (C) a center portion between the first side portion and the second portion, the center portion having a diameter less than the first side portion and the second side portion,
- wherein the tear bar remains in a fixed position during feeding and separation of the strip of media, wherein at least one of the first or second side portions comprises a roughened surface.
- 25. (Once amended) A tear bar for assisting the separation of a piece of media from a strip of media, the strip of media having a surface, a first and second side, and a center portion, the tear bar comprising:
 - (A) a first side portion, the first side portion being adapted to abut the surface of the strip of media adjacent to the first side of the strip of media and apply resistance on the strip of media when a longitudinal force is applied to the strip of media;

In re application of: Rober Luciano and Raymond Bryan

Serial number: 09/419,748

Page 3

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(B) a second side portion, the second side portion being adapted to abut the surface of the strip of media adjacent to the second side of the strip of media and apply resistance on the strip of media when a longitudinal force is applied to the strip of media; and

(C) a center portion between the first and second side portions, the center portion having a diameter less than the diameter of the first side portion and the diameter of the second side portion, the center portion being adapted to abut the surface of the strip of media when a longitudinal force is applied to the strip of media.

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FEE TRANSMITTAL	Complete if Known						
	Application Number	09/419,748					
for FY 2000	Filing Date	October 16, 1999					
Patent fees are subject to annual revision.	First Named Inventor	Robert A. Luciano					
Small Entity payments <u>must</u> be supported by a small entity statement, otherwisa large entity fees must be paid. See Forms PTO/SB/09-12.	Examiner Name	Flores-Sanches					
See 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.27 and 1.28.	Group / Art Unit	3724					
TOTAL AMOUNT OF PAYMENT (\$) 460.00	Attorney Docket No.	732.341 SDG					

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Name Idil 1 : Bullis & Associates, 1 : C.	139	130	139	130	Non-English specification	0.00
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FEE CALCULATION	115	110	215	55	Extension for reply within first month	.00
	118	380	216	190	Extension for reply within second month	0.00
1. BASIC FILING FEE Large Entity Small Entity	117	870	217	435	Extension for reply within third month	460.00
Fee Fee Fee Fee Fee Description	118	1,380	218	680	Extension for reply within fourth month	0.00
Code (\$) Code (\$) Fee Paid 101 690 201 345 Utility fling fee	128	1,850	228	925	Extension for reply within fifth month	0.00
108 310 208 155 Design filing fee	119	300	219	150	Notice of Appeal	0.00
107 480 207 240 Plant filing fee	120	300	220	150	Filing a trief in support of an appeal	0.00
108 690 208 345 Reissue filing fee	121	260	221	130	Request for oral hearing	0.00
114 150 214 75 Provisional filing fee	138	1,510	138	1,510	Petition to institute a public use proceeding	0.00
SUBTOTAL (1) (\$)	140	110	240	55	Petition to revive - unavoidable	
., .,		1,210	241		Petition to revive - unintentional	0.00
2. EXTRA CLAIM FEES		1,210	242	805 215	Utility issue fee (or reissue) Design issue fee	
Extra Claims below Fee Paid	143	430 580	243	215	Plant issue fee	
Total Claims 20** = X = 0	122	130	122	130	Petitions to the Commissioner	
Claims 40	123	50	123	50	Petitions related to provisional applications	0.00
"or number previously paid, if greater, For Reissues, see below	126	240	126	240	Submission of Information Disclosure Stmt	
Large Entity Small Entity	581	40	581	40		0.00
Fee Fee Fee Fee Fee Description Code (\$) Code (\$)		-			Recording each patent assignment per property (times number of properties)	0.00
103 18 203 9 Claims in excess of 20 102 78 202 39 Independent claims in excess of 3	146	690	248	345	Filing a submission after final rejection (37 CFR § 1.129(a))	0.00
102 78 202 39 Independent claims in excess of 3 104 260 204 130 Multipla dependent claim, if not paid	149	690	249	345	For each additional invention to be examined (37 CFR § 1.129(b))	0.00
109 76 209 39 ** Reissue independent claims over original patent	Other fee (specify)			0.00		
110 16 210 9 ** Reissue claims in excess of 20 and over original patent	Other fee (specify)			0.00		
SUBTOTAL (2) (\$) 0.00	· Redu	ced by	Basic	Filing F	ee Paid SUBTOTAL (3) (\$) 4	60.00

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Name (PrintType)	Rolando J. Tong	Registration No. (Attorney/Agent) 47,140	Telephone 775-826-6160
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PETITION FOR EXTENSION OF	732.400 SDG						
	In re Application Of Robert A. Luciano and Raymond Bryan						
	Application Numi	ber	Filed				
		19,748	October 16, 1999				
		TEAR BAR AND	PRESENTER SYSTEM				
	Group Art Unit 3724	Examiner Flo	res-Sanches				
This is a request under the provar response in the above identifi		R 1.136(a) to exten	d the period for filing				
The requested extension and a (check time period desired):	ppropriate non-s	small-entity fee are	as follows				
One month (37 CFR 1	.17(a)(1))		\$				
Two months (37 CFR	1.17(a)(2))		\$				
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